

Monthly Report Template for COMPETE Grantees

Grantee: Sustainable Harvest at Origin/Africa Ltd

Report for the month of: May 2011

Based on your grant agreement implementation timeline, please highlight the activities you have accomplished over the past month.

Activities Activities should be directly in-line with your grant agreement	Activity Status If the activity has been accomplished, please give results. If the activity has not been accomplished, please provide an explanation.
To link input suppliers with producers and producers with buyers	Many of Kilicafe's washing stations start operations on the 1st June and for this reason the month of May has focused much more on RITS trainings and getting RITS up and running at the ground level than on trade of the 2011 coffee. We expect in the following months to see contracts between roaster's and Kilicafe finalized. By July, select roasters will be able to track the coffee destined for them from the cooperative.
To conduct trainings on: -Quality management training workshops -Wet mill management workshops -RFID/cell phone use workshops -RITS system workshops for dry mill managers and cuppers	<p>Carly Griggs and Boss Farijallah traveled down to Mbinga again this month to conduct a 3 day training from 6th –8th with the 6 RITS users from Umoja Ilela, Mahenge and Kihuka. Sessions involved reviewing the basic computer skills, orienting the full RITS system and using the internet modems. All users were very quick to understand RITS and we are hopeful everything will run smoothly come June when the washing stations' open for operations.</p> <p>From 18th–19th May a 2–day training was conducted in Moshi for RITS recaps and how to use the printers for all the new 2011 RITS users from Kishisha, Mlimani Ngarashi and Pendo washing stations, as well as a session on setting up the internet modems. Again, all users appear competent and ready for the coming harvest.</p> <p>Finally another 2–day training session was conducted from 26th–27th for the 2010 RITS users from Amkeni, Singisi, Messengarony and Ngyani. Sessions included a general RITS review, the new payment functions and how to use the printers. We were pleased to see everyone remembered how to navigate RITS without any issues and the users were humbled to see that we had listened to their previous suggestions of 2010 and implemented them into the 2011 system.</p>

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Collection, bulking, cleaning, sorting, drying, storage of RITS tracked coffee at the dry mill	The harvest for 5 of the 10 RITS groups is due to begin on June 1st 2011 and therefore we can expect to see data tracked using RITS from then until December 2011. Later in the month, users will be ready to learn the new QR code functions, to easily scan and track their lots.

Additional comments or results:

Sustainable Harvest has now distributed RITS user manuals in Kiswahili to all the RITS users from the 10 groups. Furthermore, 500 farmer handbooks were received this month. Rather than give them to the RITS users during the May trainings our agronomists decided to conduct quality control follow-ups at all the washing stations in June and distribute them directly to the producers then for further impact.

Eleven Star Micronics TSP143 printers arrived in Moshi this month in time to introduce them into the Moshi trainings. They are able to efficiently print both receipts of delivery and payment at the washing station level and the new device was received very gladly by the users. Users quote;

‘The calculations made by the new payment scheme are very fast and will save us lots of time’ - *Elirehema Alyhoo, Singisi RITS user*

‘These printers will build more trust with the farmers since they are like the ones used by TRA [Tanzanian Revenue Authority]. It is very advanced technology, we are happy to have it’ - *Ernest Munuo, Messengarony RITS user*

By early May the RITS mobile iPad App was ready to demonstrate to the users at all three training sessions and feedback has been very positive. The users viewed the iPad as an easy and exciting device to navigate, and were inputting data into RITS within minutes without any major issues. They are very eager to see the offline version of RITS implemented at the field level and the old users in particular could see the undeniable benefits this application will bring during times of unstable internet connections.

‘Rather than resort back to pen and paper as we have to do now when the internet doesn’t work we could use this [RITS offline on the iPad] and just sync the data back to the computer when the connection comes back. This will make our work much quicker and easier’ - *Geoffrey Munuo, Messengarony RITS user*

Finally this month, the solar power systems for the five new groups without electricity at their washing stations have been sized and site visits conducted. The equipment has been ordered via Davis and Shirliff and will be installed at Kihuka, Mahenge, Umoja Ilela, Kishisha and Pendo washing stations during the month of June. Since the groups opening in June will have to use generators to run their computers before the arrival of the systems the solar energy option is eagerly awaited both as a cheap, energy efficient and more reliable alternative.